

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



Vol. 49, No. 17

www.laughlin.af.mil

May 12, 2000

the inside scoop

View from the Top:

Gen. Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton, AETC commander, notes the value of military members and families volunteering, and highlights Rita Daniels, the 47th Flying Training Wing Volunteer of the Year...

Page 2

Tornado tips:

When severe weather occurs, you may have only a short time to make life-or-death decisions. Base weather officer offers facts and tips to help in case of tornadoes...

Page 4

Grass isn't greener:

A Keesler AFB airman finds that life on the outside isn't for him, rejoins the Air Force...

Page 12

Mission status

(As of May 3)

Days ahead(+) or behind(-)



Fiscal Year 2000 statistics

- Sorties flown: 38,855
- Hours flown: 57,727.5
- Pilot wings earned in FY 00: 189
- Wings earned since 1963: 11,554

Index:

Viewpoint.....page 2
News.....page 3
XLER.....page 9
Sports.....page 14
Classifieds.....page 16
Newsline.....page 20



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Great support!

Col. Skip Scott, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, passes the 47th Support Group guidon to Col. John M. Betts, the new 47th Support Group commander during the April 27 change of command ceremony at Ribas-Dominicci Circle here.

AFAF opportunity extended

By Col. Herb Foret
47 FTW vice commander

This year's Air Force Assistance Fund, an Air Force-wide campaign, came and went and many members of Team XL did not have the opportunity to participate since they were not contacted. We will again have the opportunity as military members to support the local Air Force Aid Society and the national affiliates in their mission to assist Air Force families in need. As we all know and are proud to say, "we take care of our own." The effort began Thursday and will end Wednesday.

Unit points of contact will personally contact each member

of Team XL and provide the information needed to make informed decisions on how to contribute and to which organization if members so choose. The 47th Flying Training Wing commander's request is simple, "Please review the many different organizations seeking your support, and, if your financial situation allows, I am confident you will select a needy group," said Col. Skip Scott.

Since neither AFAF nor any of its affiliates receive taxpayer support, they must rely almost entirely upon contributions from the annual drive. Because

See 'AFAF,' page 13

New voice system to be "music to base's ears"

By Maj. Steven Donatucci
and
Chief Master Sgt.
Stephen Enyeart
47th Communications Squadron

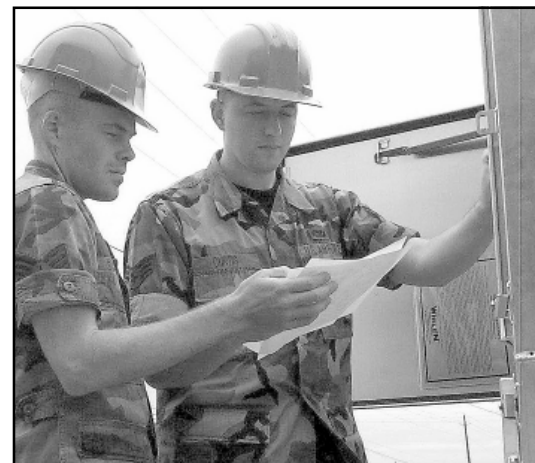
Let the music sound off to start your day! At 6 a.m., as flags are being hoisted to their lofty perch, Reveille plays throughout the base – calling forth a new day. Sound the trumpets to signal, for most, the end of a workday! At 5 p.m., Retreat sounds off as the flag is carefully lowered. Hush! In the background, sweet music plays! At 9 p.m., Taps plays gently as the young ones wander off to dreamland. And, at any time, as black skies and winds rush in, the loud emergency sirens scream a warning for all to take cover!

High above our heads are new flying saucer-like speakers stacked like pancakes atop eight telephone poles across the base. Laughlin's new base giant voice system was recently installed and is now being tested. This new public address system generates sound such as music, live voice and sirens across the entire base. It replaces the old, obsolete systems, which consisted of parts from many different commercial companies – and

could no longer be supported. The new system is activated by radio signals from either the command post or base weather station.

The wing leadership is always focused on quality of life and safety – a fact indicated by their funding of this \$100,000 project. Also, thanks to the teamwork between the 47th Communications Squadron, 47th Civil Engineering Squadron, and the 47th Flying Training Wing command post, this entire project installation was executed via self-help, a fact that saved Laughlin at least \$20,000.

Now that the system has been installed, several tests must be conducted over the next few weeks. Please be aware that this new system can generate very loud sound, so it will likely be necessary to adjust the volume at each pole. Essentially, this means that in the coming weeks, sirens and vocal tests will be heard at selective areas of the base – or across the entire base. Every attempt will be made to notify personnel prior to each test. Please do not be alarmed by these performance checks and bear with us as we perfect the system operations.



Photos by Senior Airman Mark Steele



(At left) Staff Sgt. Charles Schaer and Senior Airman Daniel Curtis, 47 CS radio maintenance technicians, finish installing one of the eight giant voice poles, one of which is pictured above.

Volunteer: A call to action

During 30-plus years of service, I've discovered a few constants about Air Force people. The vast majority live and breathe our core values of integrity, excellence and service. And, overwhelmingly, Air Force people are generous with their time and money when it comes to helping those in need.

Remember the adage seemingly as old as military service – never volunteer for anything. That certainly hasn't applied to your and my Air Force.

Whether it's the Combined Federal Campaign or the Air Force Assistance Fund Drive, we make or often exceed our goals. For many Air Force people, "service" is not just a nice idea but a call to action, a call to volunteer.

How can you make a difference? Consider these examples of "service before self."

1st Lt. Lori Vessels, a 325th Maintenance Squadron Quality Assurance Evaluation chief at Tyndall AFB, Fla., serves as the Habitat for Humanity Company Grade Officers' Council coordinator. Since November, Vessels and 30 other Tyndall members have worked more than 500 hours in their spare time to help the non-profit organization build low-cost homes for low-income families.

***Volunteers are people with action
in their veins and an attitude that one
person can make a difference.
No contribution is too small,
and your efforts, combined with others,
can make a big impact.***



By Gen. Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton
AETC commander

Rita Daniels, the spouse of an instructor pilot at Laughlin AFB, Texas, keeps a full schedule as a volunteer – Girl Scout Leader, Officer Spouses' Club Treasurer, Family Support Volunteer – as well as being a working mother of three teenagers. Selected as the AETC headquarters volunteer parent representative to the Department of Defense Healthy Parenting Initiative Design Conference, she played an active and valuable role in discussions about present and future healthy parenting in our military communities. By the way, the 47th Flying Training Wing chose her as Volunteer of the Year for 1999.

George "Happy" Irby, a long-time employee of the consolidated club at Columbus AFB, Miss., started "The Happy Christmas Fund" in 1958 to help make a better life for people with special needs.

Every year, more than 75 volunteers work with the Fund at Columbus and Lowndes County, providing clothing,



school supplies and Christmas gifts to children whom otherwise might not receive gifts. The volunteers also prepare and deliver fruit baskets to scores of people who are alone during the holidays.

There are thousands of AETC people like these three examples who share a common belief – being a volunteer is good for everyone, both the giver and receiver, and makes the world a better place.

Mentoring is also a great way to invest in our future. I can think of no better role models for America's youth than the dedicated, hard-working, motivated men and women of our military services.

Volunteers also keep our military in touch with the people we serve and defend. Volunteerism strengthens our "sense of community," as well as helping others who don't have any military experience understand who we are and why we serve in our Armed Forces.

Volunteers are people with action in their veins and an attitude that one person can make a difference. No contribution is too small, and your efforts, combined with others, can make a big impact. And, your volunteer action may inspire others to pitch in.

The old adage is wrong – in today's world – look for ways to volunteer!

(Courtesy AETC News Service)

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the *Border Eagle*. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Actionline
Call 298-5351

Winfield W. Scott III
Col. Winfield W. Scott III

47th Flying Training Wing commander



AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Equal Opportunity	298-5400
FWA hotline	298-4170

Bowled over?

Call: I'm told the bowling league had to move their bowling date to accommodate some civilians who want to bowl in our facility. Why wasn't this coordinated with the bowling league? It seems that our military should have some priority on this. Thank you.

Response: We apologize for any inconvenience the movement of the leagues may have caused. Two different leagues wanted the same night to bowl for their league night. Unfortunately, a decision was made on which nights the leagues would be bowling without consulting the Board of Directors for either league. For this, we truly apologize. Be assured, prior to next season's leagues, the Board of Directors for all leagues will

be consulted before scheduling decisions are made.

Access denied...

Call: I am calling about the hospital being closed on Fridays for training. There is no other healthcare, I have been trying all morning to get an appointment for my daughter that is sick and the Primary Care clinic downtown isn't open until 3 o'clock in the afternoon during the weekdays. I was wondering if maybe they could schedule their downtime at the hospital after 3 o'clock when the Primary Care clinic opens. If they need to stay late, they can stay late to complete their training. That way the dependents do have some kind of healthcare available. I would appreciate an answer. Thank you.

Response: The 47 MDG has readiness requirements that must be conducted during the year. We regret we cannot always meet the desired expectations of all beneficiaries, but we try to minimize the disruption of services.

In accordance with AFI 41-106, *Medical Readiness Planning and Training*, the clinic is required to close for a minimum of five full days each year to conduct training. Friday, March 31, was designated as one of these days. The remaining four days will be July 14 and 15, one day in September and one day in November. This training time allows our medical personnel to maintain their skills so they can properly treat casualties in both peacetime and wartime contingencies. We realize mandatory

training days pose an inconvenience to our customers and that illness cannot be planned.

We try to advertise well in advance when our services will not be available. Information was placed in the *Border Eagle*, on the Commanders Access Channel and fliers throughout the clinic.

Although routine medical appointments were not available, the following medical services were available: the Central Appointment Line, Pediatric Clinic and Family Practice Clinic. In case of an emergency, we provide 24-hour ambulance service coverage as does Val Verde Medical Center. Additionally, there is a 24-hour "Ask-a-Nurse" Line at 1-800-611-2875 available for medical advice.

Base selects the following military and civilian members as the best in their categories for the first quarter:

A black and white portrait of a young man with short, dark hair, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark military uniform jacket with a white shirt and a dark tie. The background is plain and light-colored.

A black and white portrait of a young man with short, dark hair, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark military uniform jacket over a white shirt and a dark tie. The background is plain and light-colored.

A black and white portrait of a woman with short, dark hair and bangs. She is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. She is wearing a dark, high-collared uniform jacket with a white shirt underneath. There are several pins or medals on her left breast. The background is plain and light-colored.

Deadlines & Advertising

News for the 4 Brother Eagles should be submitted to the Executive Office, Building A, Box 6208, Cary, NC 27513, by Friday, April 29, 2005 at 4:00 PM. Classified advertising should be submitted by email each Friday to michael.henderson@laughlin.af.mil or reginald.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil.

Having a plan of action can be the difference between life and death in the fierce, deadly storms called ...

Tornadoes

By Capt. Joe Schwarz

47th Operations Support Squadron

Severe weather outbreaks can, and do, occur at Laughlin. When severe weather does happen, you may have only a short amount of time to make life-or-death decisions. Severe weather season is upon us and now is the time to prepare.

The most significant hazards associated with severe weather are lightning, flooding and tornadoes. Knowing what actions to take before, during and after these hazards could save you and your family's lives.

Tornadoes are the most violent atmospheric phenomenon on the planet. Winds of 200 to 300 miles per hour can occur with the most violent of these storms.

If a tornado is approaching, do you know what to do to reduce your risk of becoming a fatality?

Stay tuned for local story warnings. Listen to your local radio, TV stations or the Commander's Access Channel for updated storm information.

It is important to know what a tornado watch and warning means: a tornado WATCH means a tornado is possible in your area; a tornado WARNING means a tornado has been seen, or identified on weather radar and may be headed for your area. Go to safety immediately!

When a tornado watch is issued, listen to local radio and TV stations for further updates. Be alert to changing weather conditions. Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you - many people say an approaching tornado "sounds like a freight train."

The Laughlin Weather Operations Flight issues



(Courtesy National Weather Service)

watches and warnings for the base area (identified as a five nautical-mile circle, centered on the airfield). Civilian tornado watches and warnings are issued by county in Texas by the National Weather Service. Tornadoes often form with little advance warning and the only notification may be a warning siren. If sounded, there will be a 3 to 5 minute steady tone - take cover immediately!

When a tornado warning is issued and you are inside, go to a place in that will provide the most protection. Go to the basement (if available) or to an interior

room (such as a closet or bathroom). Wrapping yourself in overcoats or blankets can protect you from debris.

If you are in a school, hospital, factory, or shopping center, go to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor.

Stay away from glass enclosed places or areas with wide roofs such as auditoriums and warehouses.

Crouch down on your knees and cover your head to minimize your risk of being hit by flying debris. If you are in a high-rise building, go to an interior small room or hallway. Stay away from exterior walls or glassy areas.

If you are outside, hurry to the basement of a sturdy building nearby or go to a designated storm shelter.

If you find yourself with no suitable structure nearby, lie flat in the nearest ditch or depression and use your hands to cover your head. If you are in a car or a mobile home when threatened by a tornado, abandon it immediately! Most deaths caused by tornadoes occur in cars and mobile homes.

If you are in either of these, leave them and go to a substantial structure or designated tornado shelter. In the absence of these options, lie flat in the nearest ditch or depression and use your hands to cover your head. Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle. A tornado's path is quite unpredictable and can very quickly trap you in - a tornado can damage a car beyond recognition.

After the tornado passes, be cautious for fallen power lines and stay out of damaged areas.

Listen to the radio for information and instructions. If possible, use a flashlight to inspect your home for damage - don't use candles due to gas leaks.

The greatest threat of severe weather in southwest Texas is from March through August. Having a plan for your family when severe weather threatens can mean the difference between life and death!

Military Spouse Appreciation Day to take place May 12

Military spouses will be recognized for their contributions during Military Spouse Appreciation Day May 12.

The purpose of the day is to honor the spouses for the sacrifices and contributions they make for their families and the military.

Numerous activities and specials will be offered on base during the day. The following is a list of the day's events:

■ The Family Support Center, with the cooperation of the Health and Wellness Center and the base law office, will be offering seminars on topics that address spousal issues. Seminars on maintaining a healthy weight using the food guide pyramid, the 4 S's of life, surviving separations and money matters for today's spouse will be presented during the day. Call 5620 to register for the

seminars.

■ The 47th Services will have several activities as well as special prices for the military spouse. Discounts on boat rentals will be offered. Also, spouses can play golf for \$5 (and the clubs are free) at the Leaning Pine Golf Course. Also, spouses can swim at a special time, bowl for free, wash the car free and (if they are a club member), get a free meal with the purchase of another meal at equal or greater price.

■ The commissary has numerous plans for military spouses, some of which they will make a surprise. You can look forward to things like \$25 gift certificates, free give-aways and other specials.

■ The base exchange will be offering manager specials throughout the day.

Job fair to be held Thursday

Whether you're looking to start a career or branch out into another career field, the Del Rio/Laughlin Community Job Fair is where you can mark your beginning.

The job fair offers local and surrounding area job seekers an opportunity to meet with over 80 local and national companies that are looking for people to join their teams.

If you're not in the market for a job right now, you can still speak to professionals in a variety of fields and learn about their careers or more about your own.

There are special seminars being offered throughout the day in conjunction with the job fair. "Teaching as a Second Career" by Texas Troops to Teachers will focus on obtaining alternative certification and securing a teaching career after you leave the military or make a career change. "Starting Your Own Busi-

ness" by the Small Business Development Council will cover all the steps to starting a business including how to maneuver through the red tape, write a business plan and conduct market research. "Life on Your Terms" by Advocare Independent Distributors will provide a business opportunity that can help you reach your dreams and live life on your terms.

A U.S. Customs recruiter will discuss career opportunities and future hiring possibilities. "Higher Education Opportunities" by Sul Ross State University is geared towards anyone considering attending college (not just Sul Ross State). They will discuss general college admission procedures, financing education and some information about Sul Ross State.

More seminars are slated to be added before the 11th, so come out and join us. For more information, call 298-5620.

The XLER

Hometown: Lumberton, N.C.

Family: Father, Chief Warrant Officer (retired) James "Airborne" Locklear; mother, Deborah Locklear; twin sister, Kayla Locklear.

Time at Laughlin: 2 years.

Time in service: 3 years.

Why did you join the Air Force family? I wanted a career like my father.

Name one way to improve life at Laughlin: Take advantage of all Laughlin has to offer.

Long-term goals: Finish my bachelor's degree in one year.

Greatest accomplishment: Earning my CCAF degree.

Hobbies: Dancing in Powwows and swimming.

Bad habit: Striving for perfection. I push myself too hard and do not take criticism very well.

If you could spend one hour with any person in history, who would it be and why?

My great-grandmother. She was like an old novel waiting to share her pages. She left a very strong impression on me.

As an American Indian, she had a sense of strength and a rare, intense inner peace that



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Senior Airman Carla Locklear
47th Medical Group

was beautiful and infectious. She was Lumbee-Cheraw when it was not "cool." She survived

it and made it – and that has made the difference in my life.

Where are they now?

Name: Capt. Joseph M. Nauman.

Class/date of graduation from Laughlin: August 1992; Class 92-13.

Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at: C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.

Mission of your current aircraft? Strategic and tactical airlift.

What do you like most

about your current aircraft? Worldwide travel.

What do you dislike most about your current aircraft? Lack of adequate flying time for training.

What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin? The weather.

What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin?

Cooperate and graduate.



Air Force photo of C-17

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

-Daily Mass 12:05 p.m.

-Saturday Mass 5 p.m.

-Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.

-Confession 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, or by appointment.

-Choir 6 p.m. Thursdays.

-Sunday school 11 a.m., religious education building.

Protestant

-General worship 11 a.m.

-Bible study video luncheon 11 a.m. Thursday, chapel fellow-

ship hall.

-Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., religious education building.

-Awana, Wednesdays from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

(For more information on AWANA, call Nedjra Russell at 298-7504).

Jewish

- Max Stool
219 West Strickland St.
Del Rio, Texas
Phone: 775-4519



From the Blotter

(From April 25-30)



■ A family member reported a domestic disturbance at her home. Police units responded and apprehended a military member for assault. The individual was released to his supervisor.

■ Two civilian employees from EAST, Inc. reported an individual driving at a high rate of speed. A field interview was accomplished.

■ An alarm activation was received from a base facility. An investigation revealed individuals had cut the alarm wires while moving a desk. The alarm was repaired and a report was initiated.

■ Workers at one of the construction sites reported the chain to the gate into their site had been cut. Investigation revealed the gate was taken off the hinges. No property was missing.

■ A Marine private turned himself in to the civilian police for being absent without leave. Authorities transported the recruit to the law enforcement desk and he was turned over to the Marine recruiter.

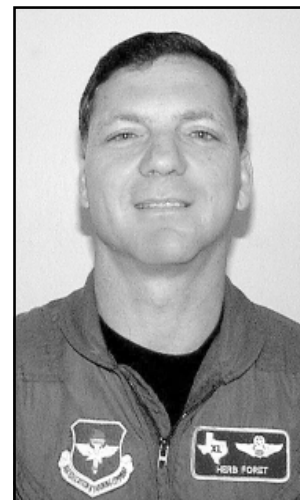
Tip of the Day: Besides being mandatory, seat belts save lives. Military regulations and Texas law mandate all occupants in motor vehicles wear a seat belt.

Don't drink & drive



Question of the week

How does your spouse contribute to your career?



"Terri has been there for every success and setback. She's listened to countless speeches and hosted numerous last-minute parties. While I was away on two remotes to Korea, she took care of the household and gave our children love and care. The daughter of a career Air Force NCO, she's always been part of the Air Force family. My wife completes every aspect of my life, helping me to fulfill my goals. Simply stated, my Air Force career just happened!"

Col. Herb Foret

47 FTW vice commander



"My husband works at home and takes care of the house and provides me with terrific moral support."

Christine Engel

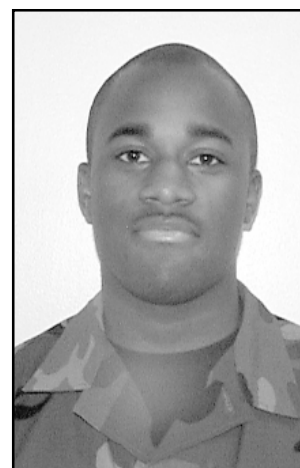
47th Medical Operations Squadron



"My husband has always been there to support the decisions I make by being patient and encouraging me to better myself by taking college classes."

Alma D. Garcia

47th Mission Support Squadron



"She acts as a counselor by lending an ear when I come home."

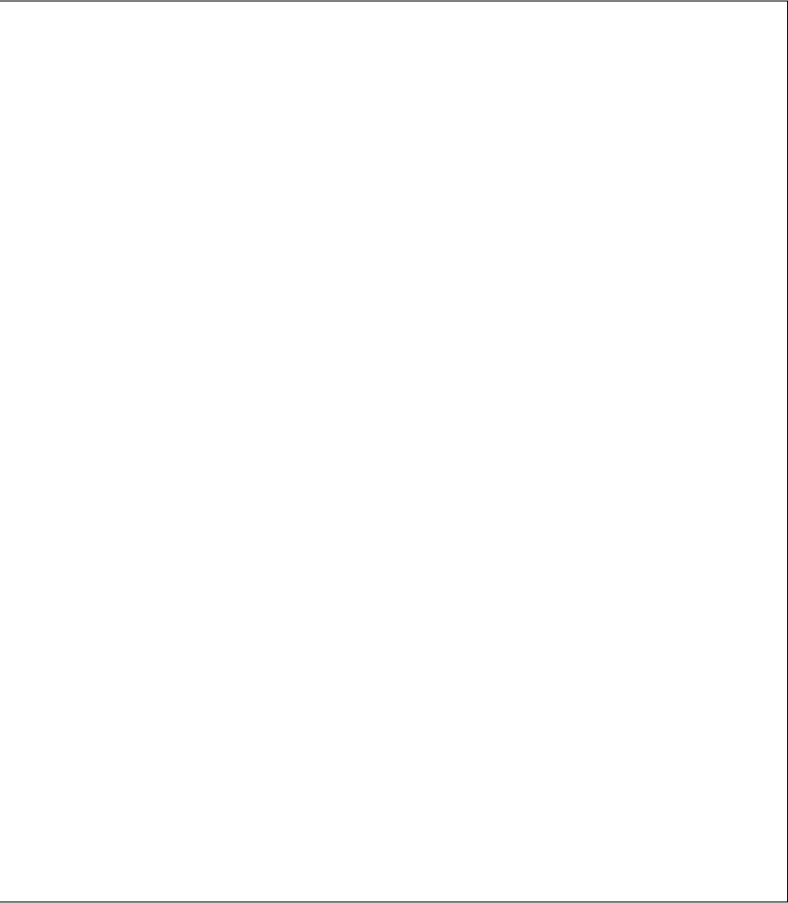
Senior Airman

Kasimu Greenidge

47th Communications Squadron

47th Flying Training Wing May promotions

<u>Promoted to:</u>	<u>Org.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Promoted to:</u>	<u>Org.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Promoted to:</u>	<u>Org.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Promoted to:</u>	<u>Org.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Promoted to:</u>	<u>Org.</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Major:</u>			<u>Captain:</u>			<u>1st Lt.:</u>			<u>1st Lt.:</u>			<u>Master Sgt.</u>		
McHorney, David E.	47 MDOS	May 7	Schreiner, Jeffrey	87 FTS	May 29	Jacobson, Michael W.	87 FTS	May 27	Parent, Melissa C.	47 FTW	May 27	Wieland, Bryan C.	87 FTS	May 27
<u>Captain:</u>			Soderstrom, Gregory	85 FTS	May 29	Jensen, Caroline A.	86 FTS	May 27	Pharr, Malcolm N.	86 FTS	May 27	Williams, Kevin S.	86 FTS	May 27
Acevedo, Carlos L.	84 FTS	May 29	Thomas, John M.	85 FTS	May 29	Jensen, Shane C.	86 FTS	May 27	Pichirillo, Kennan E.	86 FTS	May 27	Woosely, James R.	86 FTS	May 27
Akerman, Ivan	84 FTS	May 29	Uffelman, Michael C.	84 FTS	May 29	Johnson, Brandon R.	87 FTS	May 27	Pisano, Theresa A.	86 FTS	May 27	Young, Jennifer D.	87 FTS	May 27
Begin, Daniel J.	86 FTS	May 29	Williamson, Terry W.	47 MDSS	May 4	Kallai, Michael C.	86 FTS	May 27	Powell, Calvin B.	87 FTS	May 27	Zingaro, Joseph F.	87 FTS	May 27
Burr, Brian E.	47 OSS	May 29	<u>1st Lt.:</u>			Kerkman, Adam W.	87 FTS	May 27	Preedom, Conrad A.	86 FTS	May 27	Zumbrennan, Clinton	84 FTS	May 27
Carrillo, Lucy H.	47 FTW	May 15	Ebert, Daniel A.	86 FTS	May 27	Larsen, Joshua A.	86 FTS	May 27	Reiss, Jason S.	87 FTS	May 27	<u>Master Sgt.</u>		
Cooper, Justin D.	85 FTS	May 29	Eckert, Lauren G.	86 FTS	May 27	Lee, Daniel P.	87 FTS	May 27	Reynosa, Ray A.	47 CPTF	May 27	McClain, Curtis W.	47 OSS	May 1
Cunningham, Melissa	47 OG	May 29	Falsani, Mark D.	87 FTS	May 27	Lewis, Justin D.	86 FTS	May 27	Rubio, Stuart M.	86 FTS	May 27	<u>Tech Sgt.</u>		
Haines, Brian S.	87 FTS	May 29	Farrelly, Francis J.	86 FTS	May 27	Lopeztorres, Osvald	86 FTS	May 27	Saffo, Clinton R.	86 FTS	May 27	Brooks, Paul T.	47 OSS	May 1
Jennes, Jeremy M.	87 FTS	May 29	Finnan, Sean M.	86 FTS	May 27	Lucas, John W.	86 FTS	May 27	Salmi, Derek M.	86 FTS	May 27	Gentile, Paul J.	47 CES	May 1
Lorenz, Scott E.	85 FTS	May 29	Graham, Seth W.	87 FTS	May 27	Mallory, Phillip L.	87 FTS	May 27	Smith, Jimmy W.	86 FTS	May 27	Trujillo, Christopher	47 CONS	May 1
Lyday, Darcy C.	47 OSS	May 29	Greenfield, Elizabeth J.	47 FTW	May 27	McCoy, Patrick J.	86 FTS	May 27	Sommers, Michael G.	87 FTS	May 27	<u>Staff Sgt.</u>		
McCallum, William C.	85 FTS	May 29	Grupe, Lizabeth M.	86 FTS	May 27	Melin, Jess A.	87 FTS	May 27	Spears, Justin B.	87 FTS	May 27	Allen, Dyron T.	47 CS	May 1
Meador, Andrew J.	84 FTS	May 29	Harrison, Benjamin	87 FTS	May 27	Meyer, Michael W.	87 FTS	May 27	Surdyk, Brian A.	86 FTS	May 27	Grabski, Stacey A.	47 ADS	May 1
Morales, Marcelo	85 FTS	May 29	Heusinkveld, Mark R.	87 FTS	May 27	Middleton, Charles	86 FTS	May 27	Svalya, Daniel G.	86 FTS	May 27	Morgan, Michael J.	47 OSS	May 1
Mosley, Kale M.	86 FTS	May 29	Holahan, Sean P.	87 FTS	May 27	Miller, Christopher	87 FTS	May 27	Thayn, Jarin R.	86 FTS	May 27	<u>Senior Airman:</u>		
Newton, Stewart H.	85 FTS	May 29	Holland, Christopher	86 FTS	May 27	Mohr, Jeffrey W.	47 OSS	May 27	Tull, Justin W.	86 FTS	May 27	Barton, Jason L. (BTZ)	47 MDSS	May 25
Rineheart, Glenn A.	84 FTS	May 29	Hornbuckle, Richard	86 FTS	May 27	Munson, Erin M.	86 FTS	May 27	Wagner, Kurt E.	86 FTS	May 27	Donahue, Natalie R.	85 FTS	May 7
Scarborough, Kerre	87 FTS	May 29	Hornburg, Kevin D.	87 FTS	May 27	Mustin, James J.	87 FTS	May 27	Waldrep, Lisa D.	86 FTS	May 27	Maclin, Stephen (BTZ)	47 CS	May 17
						Noyes, Shane C.	86 FTS	May 27	Weber, Eric S.	86 FTS	May 27	McCulloch, Rodney J.	47 OSS	May 14
						Palmatier, William	86 FTS	May 27	Wetter, Matthew A.	86 FTS	May 27	<u>Airman 1st Class:</u>		
						Parent, Charles S.	86 FTS	May 27	Whalen, Susan A.	86 FTS	May 27	Smith, Benjamin J.	47 CPTF	May 13
									White, Bradley D.	86 FTS	May 27	(Information courtesy of 47 MSS)		



AETC looking for technical instructors

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Do you have the desire to pass your professional, military and technical skills on to future Air Force airmen? If so, you should consider a tour as a technical instructor in Air Education and Training Command.

The Air Force has a continual need for sharp, highly motivated and dedicated senior airmen through master sergeants to accept the challenge of developing tomorrow’s technical experts.

“I really like it,” said Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Jones, a Security Forces apprentice course instructor at the 343rd Training Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. “Being an instructor helps me to see the whole ‘big picture’ concept, while giving me a chance to make a real difference in the Air Force and its people.”

Contact the military personnel flight customer service section at 5276 for application procedures.
(Courtesy AETC News Service)

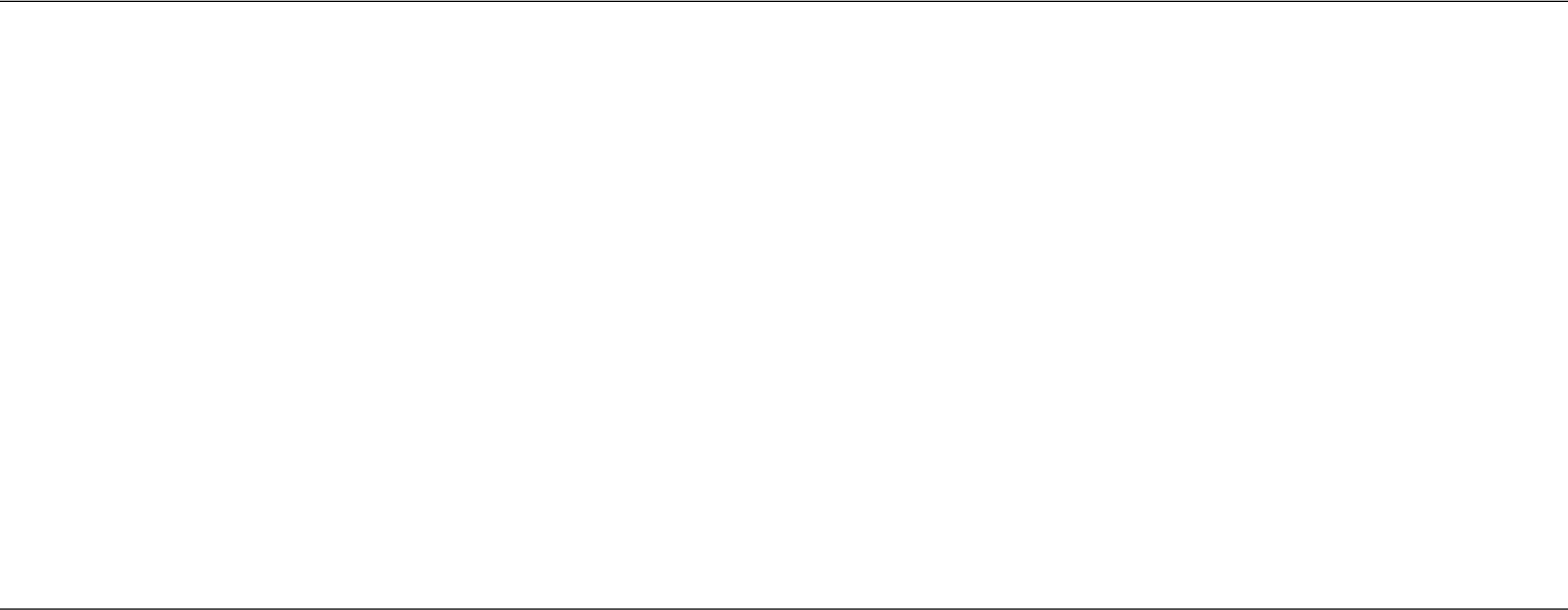
47th Medical Group

Due to the upcoming departure of the optometrist, Capt. Robert Kesead, May 12, the optometry clinic will be seeing active duty personnel only. This temporary situation will remain in effect until the new optometrist arrives in mid-June.

During this two-month interim period, manning assistance for an optometrist has been approved for two weeks – May 21-27 and June 11-17. During these periods, appointments will remain limited to the active duty personnel.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but please understand that the late spring/summer period is when the majority of active duty personnel permanently change station.

Any beneficiaries requiring urgent eye care should contact the Primary Care Manager for a referral to an eye specialist (ophthalmology).



Airman finds grass 'not so green' in civilian life, rejoins the service

By Tech. Sgt.
Roger Drinnon
Keesler News staff

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. – Believing the grass is always greener on the civilian side of the job market fence, some airmen leave the Air Force after one or two tours. Like one Keesler airman, some discover "it ain't necessarily so," and come back.

Senior Airman Macon Kitchens, a fuels specialist for the 81st Supply Squadron here, returned to active duty Feb. 1 after separating from the Air Force June 6, 1999. "I had to think hard about it before I gave the recruiter a definite answer," said Kitchens. "I knew if I came back in the Air Force, it would be (to finish) the full 20 years."

Kitchens cited increased pay and improved retirement benefits as part of his motivation to return. "If I had known more pay and benefits were in the works, I wouldn't have gotten

out in the first place," he explained. "You're not going to get the benefits the Air Force offers you anywhere else."

Kitchens originally entered the Air Force as a fuels specialist June 7, 1995. His first assignment was at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. He then served a one-year remote tour at Kunsan Air Base, Korea, followed by an assignment at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. A four-month temporary duty assignment to Kuwait near the end of his enlistment "left a bad taste" about the Air Force lifestyle, Kitchens recalled. That's when Kitchens decided against re-enlisting.

After he got out, Kitchens said he worked as a heavy equipment operator for a logging company in his hometown

of Newton, Texas. "I was offered a good job in my hometown and took it. After a while, I got shuffled around to being a truck driver," he said. That wasn't what he had in mind, so he quit and took a job as a welder's helper in Pascagoula, Miss.

Not much more time passed before "I was tired of working all the time without much down time and without as many benefits (as the Air Force)," he said.

The process for returning to active duty took only about two weeks.

"It was almost like I'd never left," Kitchens said. "After the re-

cruiter got the paperwork rolling, I processed at the Houston Military Entrance Personnel Station where they cut my orders. I

***"I know that I've made
the right choice ...
I'm glad I came back."***

**-Senior Airman
Macon Kitchens
Keesler AFB, Miss.**



(Photo by Kemberly Groue)

At work in his office in Keesler's fuels management facility, Kitchens said, "I know I made the right choice. I'm glad I came back."

told them I was doing a DITY (do-it-yourself) move. I went home, loaded up my truck and came here."

Since his return to the blue suit, Kitchens has become an ambassador for retention.

"He told the rest of our airmen here that getting out is a mistake," said Staff Sgt. Robert Clements, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the fuel resource control center for the 81st SUPS. Clements said he's

heard Kitchens tell several airmen about his civilian employment experiences.

The 24-year-old single airman plans on taking advantage of Air Force college education benefits. Kitchens said getting his Community College of the Air Force associates degree is now a priority.

"I know that I've made the right choice," he said. I'm glad I came back."

(AETC News Service)

‘AFAF,’ from page 1

the fund is Air Force people directly helping Air Force people, the administrative costs are among the lowest in the nation – more than 95 cents of every dollar goes to the families. Donations are also tax deductible.

The AFAF has been established to provide an annual effort to raise funds for the charitable organizations the provide support directly to Air Force families.

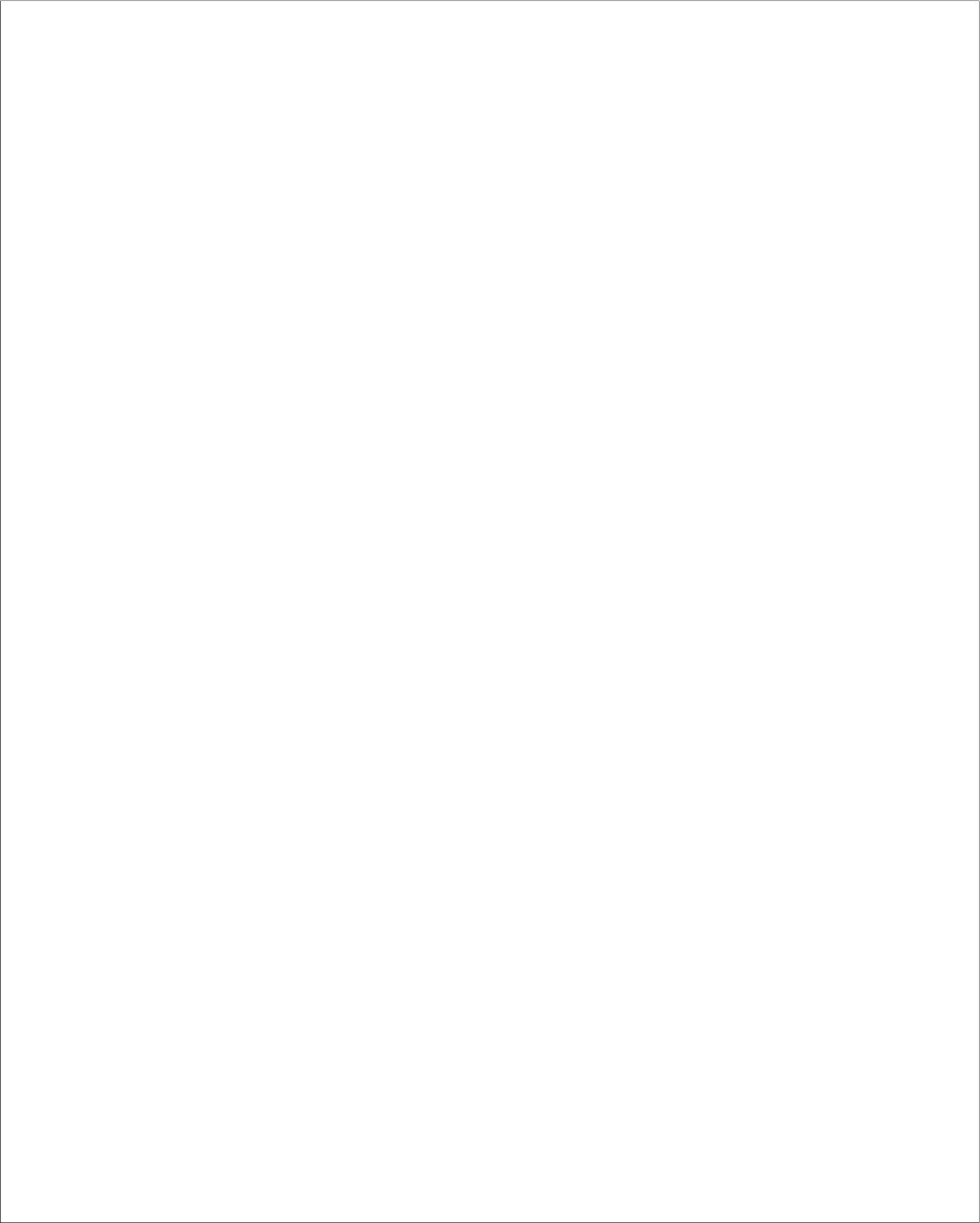
This includes active duty, Reservists, Guard and dependents – plus surviving spouses.

These organizations are:

The **Air Force Village Foundation Inc.**; the **Air Force Aid Society**; the **General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation**; and the **Air Force Enlisted Men’s Widows and Dependents Home Foundation, Inc.** These groups help “our”

Air Force people with aid in emergencies, with educational needs or provide a secure retirement home for widows/widowers of Air Force members who need financial assistance.

For donations or questions, please contact your staff/squadron representative.



Military medical experts facing an epidemic of missing records

By Army Staff Sgt.
Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

Military medical experts are facing a new kind of epidemic, one that doesn't involve a disease but can affect patients' health nonetheless — missing medical records.

"We have a very different culture in the military as far as the custody and control of medical records goes," said Army Col. Susan McMarlin, director of program analysis with the Tricare Management Activity here. "I don't know how it all got started, but we've really gotten ourselves into an extremely relaxed atmosphere as far as maintaining the records.

"It has become the rule rather than the exception in some places for patients to maintain their records," she said. "In the civilian sector, such a situation, where a patient maintains a legal medical document, is not even comprehensible."

McMarlin said that individuals are welcome to make copies of any documents in their medical records. The records them-

selves are federal property, however, and it's the servicing medical treatment facility's responsibility to maintain them. Besides the fact that's the law, she said, there are several reasons it's important for medical treatment facilities to maintain patients' records.

The most basic reason is that having medical records on hand helps physicians assure the quality and continuity of care they give patients, said Army Lt. Col. Michael Montgomery, Tricare's senior health program analyst for patient administration. An example: "If you had an accident and came into the emergency room, it might matter what medications you're taking or if you have any drug allergies," he said.

Another reason is accreditation. "There are standards for all hospitals to be accredited," Montgomery said. "One of those standards is keeping good records." The General Accounting Office and DoD inspector general also review records to verify facilities' workloads. "If we say we have a certain workload but we can't document it through medical

records, we can't truly substantiate our patient load," he explained.

There are also financial reasons for facilities to maintain good records. The military is required to bill third-party insurance companies for care their patients received in military medical treatment facilities. Medical records are important to substantiate those bills, Montgomery said.

It's no secret that medical records belong to the government and members aren't supposed to hold them. The rules about returning them, however, aren't uniformly enforced across the services or even medical treatment facilities, he said.

Montgomery said DoD needs to get closer to the civilian sector's way of doing things. "Private-sector physicians are a lot more restrictive of their records. The patient never touches the records," he said. This isn't true in the military, where people move often and receive care at more than one facility, Montgomery acknowledged. "But we need to get away from the attitude that it's OK for the patient to keep the



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Airman 1st Class Corazon Pol, 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron aeromedical technician, files medical records at the clinic Thursday.

record," he said.

McMarlin said the problem really came to prominent focus during a recent DoD IG inspection during which the facilities were given a preselected list of Social Security numbers of people who had recently received care. Some facilities were only able to come up with 25 percent of the requested records, she said.

The situation definitely has officials' attention. The assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, Dr. Sue Bailey, advised the services' surgeons general in a January memo that she would

"appreciate (their) assistance in assuring our MTFs implement improved custody and control procedures for outpatient medical records."

Even though DoD is upgrading to a computerized patient record system that should be completed within three years, the department will still be responsible for maintaining these records. McMarlin said DoD is required to maintain active-duty members' medical records for 50 years.

For more information on records handling procedures here, call 298-6486.

Legal officials list campaign do's, don'ts

WASHINGTON — As election campaigns heat up, there are some guidelines military members should know concerning political activities, according to Air Force legal officials.

While it is the civic duty to military members to exercise their democratic rights to vote, there are certain political activities off limits to active-duty service members, said legal officials. These also apply to Reserve and Guard members while on active duty.

These restrictions are aimed at keeping the military a politically neutral entity by avoiding partisan politics. They are stated in AFI 51-902 and in Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, said legal officials.

Prohibited partisan political activities include:

- Soliciting votes for a particular candidate or political issue, soliciting or receiving campaign contributions from other military members or civilian employees, and selling tickets or promoting political dinners and fund-raising events.
- As active-duty members, attending political events in uniform, or speaking before a political gathering as an

advocate of a political party or candidate. Additionally, service members may not distribute petitions, literature and buttons, nor can they perform clerical or other duties for a partisan, political committee during the campaign or on election day.

Such issues can create divisiveness among service members, and there is a potential for undue influence over subordinates' political choices. This potentially undermines morale, explained officials who also reminds members to keep in mind the armed forces are under the

control of elected civilian officials and should not appear to support particular candidates or issues.

Military members may, however, engage in certain political activities. Members may register, then vote for the candidates and issues of their choice. Personal

opinions may be expressed about issues and candidates, but not as a representative of the military. Along the same lines, letters may be written to editors of periodicals expressing personal views, taking care to limit such articles to public, nonpartisan issues and signing it personally — not as a military member.

Attending rallies and meetings of political clubs, as well as wearing political badges or buttons, is also permissible when not in uniform. Service members may also display political bumper stickers on their personal vehicles. Additionally, while all service members are entitled to their opinions, using contemptuous words against the president and certain other government officials is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Military members may make monetary political contributions, subject to some limitations concerning contribution recipients and dollar amounts. Contributions to a political party or committee that favors a particular candidate are not prohibited, but direct contributions to a political candidate are prohibited.

For example, said legal officials, a service member may contribute to the Republican or Democratic party, or to a committee formed to support a particular candidate, but the member may not make a contribution directly to a particular candidate.

Violating these rules subject military members to action under the UCMJ. The rules are not meant to discourage military members from exercising their responsibilities as citizens, said legal officials, but rather enforce federal laws designed to maintain the military's neutrality in political affairs.

(Courtesy Air Force Print News)

While it is the civic duty to military members to exercise their democratic rights to vote, there are certain political activities off limits to active-duty service members, said legal officials.

Luke airman heads for Olympics

By Kristen M. Butler

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A Luke airman will be leaving the end of runway team to compete on another team of sorts – an Olympic team.

Senior Airman Rob DeJesus, 56th Operations Support Squadron, recently earned a spot on the Puerto Rican 2000 Olympics racquetball team.

DeJesus is eligible to play on the Puerto Rican team because his father was born there. Knowing that, members of the Puerto Rican Racquetball Federation invited DeJesus to compete in their national tournament. He won the singles title in 1999 and recently won it again in March.

In addition to holding the Puerto Rican titles, DeJesus competed in the 1999 Tournament of Americas where he defeated the U.S. No. 1 and No. 2 players.

Until DeJesus leaves for Sydney, Australia, in August, he must remain at the top of his game. He does this by spending nearly three hours in the gym four times a week. He tries to do a lot of aerobic activity, strength training and plays squash. “You have to have the proper vehicle to get you to the ball, but you don’t want to bulk up – it’s important to be flexible.”

In addition to spending time in the gym, DeJesus will play in as many tournaments as possible before his Olympic trek. In May, he plays in the Armed Forces championship in San Antonio.

DeJesus’ Olympics journey began nearly two decades ago. In the Air Force since 1995, the 27-year-old racquetball player has been participating in the sport since age 8. His father played racquetball for the Navy team and at first, DeJesus tagged along to spend time with his father. However, early on, it became apparent he had a natural gift for the sport.

“I loved being able to smack something around and make so much noise without getting in trouble,” he laughed. “But, what kept me in the sport is its intense nature. It’s

all you and an opponent shut up in a 20-by-40-(foot) box - it’s not only physically intense, but also mentally – it’s an adrenaline rush.”

The sport requires a combination of hand-eye coordination, speed, balance, strength and quick reactions, DeJesus said. His strength lies in his low, hard, fast and nearly unreturnable serve, in addition to quick speed and good court sense. He also credits the Air Force with molding him into a better player.

“The Air Force has taught me to adapt to different surroundings and people,” he explained. I have to use this skill all the time when I meet a new opponent – I must learn to overcome various styles of play. The military has also taught me how to use common sense, make decisions and use discipline.”

The Air Force also gave DeJesus the opportunity to play. They have sent him to play in tournaments around the world, allowing him to gain valuable experience. “I couldn’t have done this without the support of the people in my shop,” he said.

“They’ve worked with my schedule and expect nothing but the best from me on the job or at a tournament.”

DeJesus said to make up for his time away, he volunteers for weekend and after-hours duty.

“I wouldn’t be where I am today if it wasn’t for the Air Force,” he said. “Every chance I get, I try to spread the word about what the Air Force has to offer – I always wear my service dress to (racquetball) awards banquets and when traveling by plane.”

“Airman DeJesus is a very hard worker and tries to give something back every chance he gets,” Tech. Sgt. Robert Armstead, 56th OSS shift supervisor, said. “Not only is he a highly skilled Air Force technician and world-class athlete, but he also finds time to volunteer in the community – you couldn’t ask for a sharper, more dedicated airman to represent the Air Force.”

(Courtesy AETC News Service)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Title of base champs!

(Left) Richard Parks, 47th Medical Group and Brian Sanders or LCSAM go up for a rebound in the intramural basketball championship game April 27 at the base gym. LCSAM defeated the Med Group 40-37 to claim the title as base champs.

<u>Team</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Total</u>
87 FTS	70	238
47 SVS	51	199
47 ADS #1	N/A	172
84 FTS	24	158
47 CES	36	141
47 ADS #2	N/A	139



Spring cleaning

Spring Clean-up for the military family housing area ends May 15. The two large dumpsters located at the enlisted common area on Cannon St. and in the officer area on E. Vandenberg St. will be used for the base cleanup. Do not put leaves, branches, grass clippings or any hazardous waste materials in these dumpsters. The compost area is the designated drop-off for leaves, branches and grass clippings.

Golf tournament

The 29th annual Commander's Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 12-14. If interested in playing, call the 47th Flying Training Wing protocol office at 5869.

Travel reimbursement

All Air Education and Training Command travelers must complete a split disbursement form, either authorizing or declining direct payment for travel reimbursement to the travel card company. For more information, call Tech Sgt. Eudocio Garcia at 5139.

Membership drive

A meeting of the Laughlin Noncommissioned Officers Association and Professional Military Education Graduates Association is scheduled for 11 a.m. today in the Airman Leadership School / Enlisted Heritage building. This meeting is open to all active duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel.

Military leave policy changes

Unit commanders may now approve up to 10 days permissive temporary duty assignment for a member to attend national conventions or meetings hosted by service-connected organizations such as the Air Force Sergeants Association.

Unit commanders may also approve up to 12 days PTDY for a member to participate in events, activities or gatherings which have been pre-approved by the Air Force recruiting mission as part of the We Are All Recruiters program. Other changes to the military leave policy have also been made. For more information on these changes, call the Military Personnel Flight customer service section at 5277.

Reserve Transition Assistance

The Reserve Transition Assistance Program is a program designed to assist members of the Selected Reserve affected by force reduction to adjust to an all-civilian lifestyle. It outlines benefits acquired under the Montgomery GI Bill. The pay program for Reservists is explained as well as involuntary separation and retirement pay. For more information, contact Air Reserve Management at 298-5487, or log onto <http://www.arpc.org>.

Watering policy

The Laughlin watering policy requires housing resi-

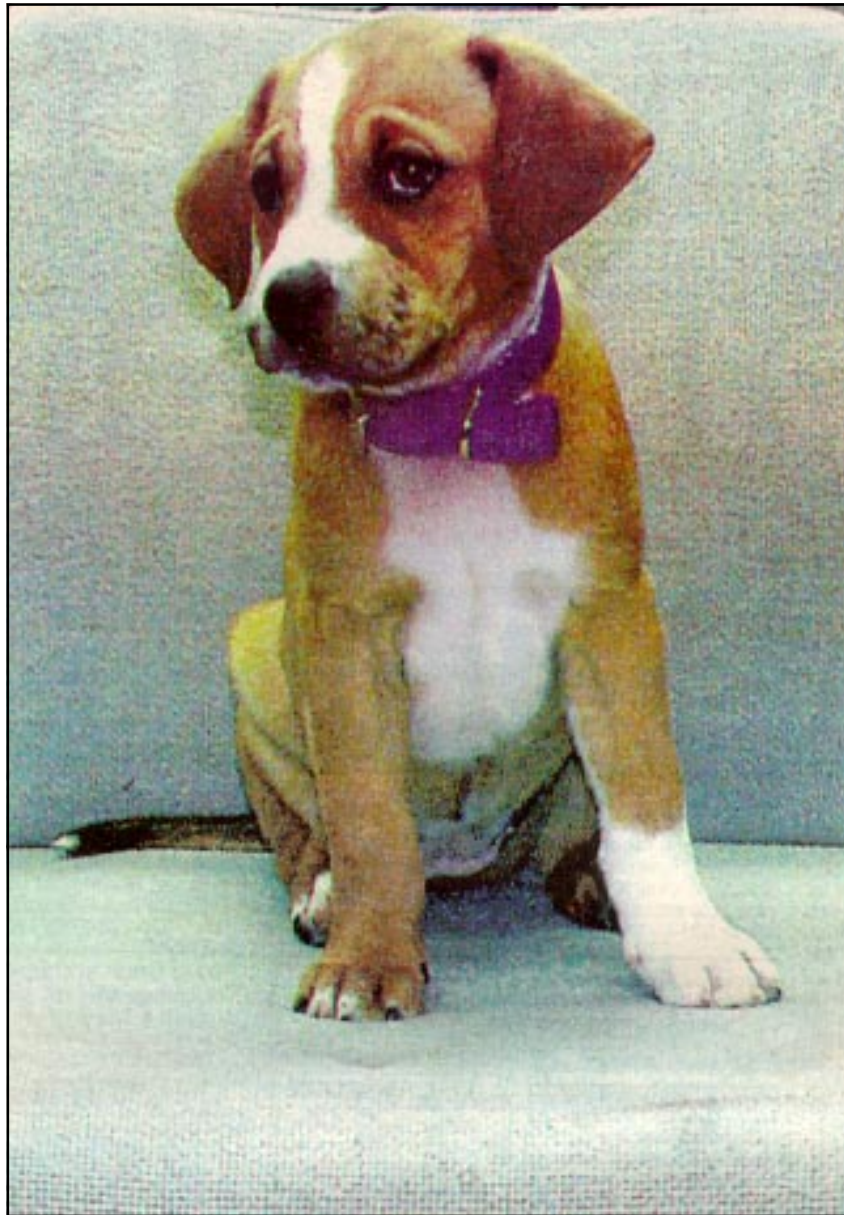


Photo by Senior Airman Mike Hammond

Pet of the month

Maggie, the pet of Staff Sgt. Sam and Trina Ezernack, 47th Flying Training Wing, awaits a visit to the base veterinarian for a rabies vaccination needed to be registered on base.

dents with odd-numbered houses to water on odd days and even-numbered houses to water on even days. Watering times are 5 to 9 a.m. and 6 to 11 p.m.

OSC Scholarship Banquet

An OSC Scholarship Banquet is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Club XL. For reservations, contact Stacey Lilley at 298-2690.

Tobacco Cessation Class

The Health and Wellness Center plans to sponsor the next tobacco cessation class June 6 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Classes will be held in the HAWC conference room. For more information, call 6463 or 6464.

Research separating benefits

If you are thinking about separating from active duty, why not retain some of your benefits and your military retirement as well? Airmen with less than 180 days until their established date of separation may be able to separate early. For more information, call DSN 473-3860.

If you are looking for a way to separate early from active duty, the Palace Chase program may be for you.

Your remaining active duty service commitment may be waived, for approved applicants, in exchange for your agreement to participate in the Air Force Reserve. For more information, call DSN# 473-3860.

Red Cross tornado safety tips

- Pick a safe place in your home where family members can gather during a tornado. Make sure there are no windows or glass doors in the area. Keep this place uncluttered.
- If living in a mobile home, choose another safe sturdy place in a building nearby.
- Put together a disaster supply kit in a clearly labeled, easy-to-grab box. Write instructions on how and when to turn off your utilities.
- Make sure all your family members know the name of the county where you live, since tornado watches and warnings are issued by county.

Boat ramp closes

Reservoir levels normally begin decreasing in early spring due to irrigation water demand in the lower Rio Grande Valley. As the water level drops, certain launch ramps become unusable and pose a safety hazard to potential boaters. For this reason, the National Park Service is announcing that the Black Brush boat ramp on Lake Amistad, located east of the Diablo East recreation site, is closed.

Boaters may contact the Amistad National Recreation Area at 775-7491 for more information and updates.

The Weather Ahead for May



The month of May usually brings the end of spring-like weather to Laughlin. A few cold fronts still pass through Del Rio, but are very weak. Thunderstorm activity is at its peak with frequent potential for severe thunderstorms. On average, seven thunderstorms strike Laughlin during May. Low cloud ceilings still occur in the mornings, but are short lived and rarely extend to below 500 feet with visibilities reduced to only 4 to 5 miles.

May statistics

Daily average high/low temperature (degrees Fahrenheit): 89/68

Monthly average precipitation: 2.5 inches

Record high/low temperature: 108/44

Record maximum/minimum temperature: 8.6 inches/0.2 inches

Record maximum 24-hour rainfall: 5.7 inches

Interested in the current weather conditions at Laughlin? Check out the Weather Operations Flight web page at

<http://weather.laughlin.af.mil/>. During severe weather, tune to the Commander's Access Channel for weather warning updates.